

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2018–2023

APPENDICES

California Fish Passage Forum



Updated July 2021

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APPENDIX I – LINKS TO CALIFORNIA STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN AND STEELHEAD RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA

The Forum addresses problems and issues associated with fish passage throughout the state, however, four areas receive most of the Forum’s focus and are primary regions listed in the California State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). These are the North Coast-Klamath, the Central Coast, the South Coast, and the Central Valley-Bay Delta Region.

Most of California’s river segments with state or federal Wild and Scenic River designations are in the North Coast–Klamath Region, including portions of the Klamath, Trinity, Smith, Scott, Salmon, Van Duzen, and Eel. Anadromous fish species include coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, coast cutthroat trout, green sturgeon, and Pacific lamprey. The region has experienced significant declines in its fish populations, with an 80 percent decline in salmon and steelhead between the 1950s and 1990s (California State Lands Commission 1993).

On page 261 and 262 of SWAP are “Conservation Actions to Restore and Preserve Wildlife.” Action “b” states,

“Federal, state, and local agencies and private landowners should work to restore fish passage in aquatic systems important for anadromous and wide-ranging fish populations. Efforts to restore fish passage will require cooperative efforts by private owners of dams and water supply companies and partnerships among a wide range of agencies, including such state and local agencies as the State Water Resources Control Board, Caltrans, local water districts, city and county public works departments, and Fish and Game; federal agencies, such as NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; other stakeholders, such as Native American tribes; and nongovernmental organizations, land trusts, and watershed councils.

Agencies and partners should continue to update and maintain the Coastal Conservancy's database (PAD) of barriers to fish passage and use the database to seek and prioritize opportunities to implement fish passage improvement projects. (A link to the database is available at <http://www.calfish.org>, under the sidebar heading, Fish Passage Assessment.)

Where feasible, fish barriers should be removed or modified. Fish ladders or other means of passage around dams, small-scale diversions, and other impediments should be installed (CDFW 2004g)."

In the Central Coast, the SWAP describes fish passage as a stressor to anadromous fish (Pages 216 and 217).

"Dams and smaller structures such as road crossings can fragment watersheds. As shown above, more than 70 dams and roads create complete barriers to fish passage." "Other artificial structures, such as culverts, low-water road crossings, pipeline crossings, and bridges, also block migration, stream flows, and sediment transport."

Page 228 of SWAP lists "Conservation Actions to Restore and Preserve Wildlife." Action "f" provides guidance for the Central Coast:

"Federal, state, and local agencies should work to restore fish passage in aquatic systems important for anadromous and wide-ranging fish populations. Efforts to restore fish passage may require multi-agency partnerships involving such state and local agencies as the State Water Resources Control Board, Caltrans, local water districts, city and county public works departments, and Fish and Game; federal agencies, such as NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and nongovernmental organizations, such as Trout Unlimited, land trusts, and watershed councils. The cooperation of private owners of dams and water supply companies will also be needed."

Actions recommended in the SWAP include:

- Continue to inventory and assess barriers to fish passage, update and maintain the Coastal Conservancy's database of barriers, and use the database to prioritize and seek opportunities to implement fish passage improvement projects (CDFW 2004g). The Coastal Conservancy's database is available at <http://www.calfish.org>, under the Fish Passage Assessment link.
- Where possible, remove or modify structures and barriers to allow passage. Install fish ladders or other means of passage around dams, diversions, and other impediments, including road crossings, pipelines, and culverts. Monitor fish-passage improvement projects to assess benefits to fish populations and to document lessons learned."

In the South Coast Region, the SWAP also references the decline of anadromous fish and the need for improving connectivity of their habitat. On page 175:

"Steelhead illustrate the severity of the situation, having declined from historical populations in the tens of thousands to current numbers of between 200 and 300 fish (CCC 2001, Larson 2005 pers. comm.). Historically, greater connectivity between watersheds allowed species to recolonize after sedimentation events. Today, however, roads and water diversions have fragmented and isolated stream systems, making it difficult for species to recolonize areas where they have been locally extirpated."

The "Conservation Actions to Restore and Preserve Wildlife," (page 188 of the SWAP), Action "f" notes:

"Because of the high level of urbanization in the South Coast Region, even the most intact systems will typically need some restoration work. Important restoration actions include enhancing riparian habitat and vegetation; relocating or removing confining levees to allow river-channel meandering and reconnection of rivers with their floodplains; removing dams, diversions, or other obstacles to sediment transport and fish passage..."

The “Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California” (SRMP) (DFG 1996), notes, “The major factor causing the decline in California is freshwater habitat loss and degradation. This has resulted mainly from three factors: inadequate stream flows, blocked access to historic spawning and rearing areas...” (Executive Summary, page 1).

Recommendations for restoration under "Instream Habitat" on page 74 of the SRMP says that "Habitat restoration projects that attempt to 1) correct problems created by watershed damage or 2) restore access to historic habitats through barrier modification or removal should receive the highest priority for funding."

In 2003, California Fish and Wildlife completed the Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon. The recovery strategy's recommendations include planning and regulating water supply development and water rights to ensure adequate stream-flow levels and timing; elimination of barriers to fish passage where possible; and restoration and land management practices that improve habitat conditions. The recovery strategy also provides specific recommendations for individual watersheds and rivers, prioritizes watersheds according to restoration and management potential, and prioritizes the tasks needed to achieve the plan's goals. Restoring fish passage is a high priority in most watershed recommendations.

APPENDIX II –FORUM BYLAWS

CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME, PURPOSE and GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Section 1 – Name: The name of the organization shall be the California Fish Passage Forum (Forum).

Section 2 – Purpose: The California Fish Passage Forum (Forum) is an association of agencies and entities dedicated to restoring connectivity of freshwater and estuarine habitats throughout the historic range of anadromous fish in California by promoting collaboration among public and private sectors for fish passage improvement projects and programs.

a. Through cooperation, education, communication, and advocacy, the Forum is committed to ecological restoration and ecologically sensitive management of ecosystems in the territory defined in Section 3 of this Article. The Forum is committed to applying science-based adaptive management practices. The Forum’s main goal is to protect, restore and enhance processes within watersheds (and ecosystems therein) required to preserve, enhance and restore connectivity, structure, functionality, and diversity. The Forum will only take actions that provide a net benefit to native species. Ecological restoration is the process of intentionally altering a site to establish a defined, indigenous, historic ecosystem. The goal of this process is to emulate the structure, function, diversity, and dynamics of the specified ecosystem.

b. The Forum is committed to restoring hydrological and ecological connectivity within anadromous fish habitat wherever possible.

c. The Forum is committed to do any lawful activities which may be necessary, useful, or desirable for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering, or attainment of the foregoing purposes, either directly or indirectly and either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, whether such others be persons or organizations or any kind or nature, such as corporations, firms, associations, trusts, institutions, foundations, or governmental bureaus, departments, or agencies.

d. The organization shall act in a manner consistent with, but not limited by, the bylaws, objectives, policies, and positions as adopted by the Forum. In general, it will also follow the guidance of the program goals and objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action

Partnerships (NFHP) as well as the standards and tools needed to collect, understand, manage, analyze, and share those data.

Section 3 – Geographic Area and Keystone Species: The geographic area encompassed by the Forum shall include the historical and present anadromous habitat of Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*), Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*), sturgeon (*Acipenser* spp.), and other native anadromous fish species in the State of California, as defined at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery/domains.htm>.

ARTICLE II. VOTING MEMBERSHIP AND FORUM GOVERNANCE

Section 1 – Forum Steering Committee: Any entity or individual who signs the Forum MOU is a member of the Forum Steering Committee. The Forum Steering Committee members (members) are responsible for overall policy and direction of the Forum, as well as for the establishment and direction of other committees and working groups.

The Forum seeks membership that represents the geography and organizational diversity of entities seeking to advance fish passage in the geographic scope of the Forum. Forum representatives may be added through the initiation or invitation of the Forum or by Forum representatives nominating an entity.

Members manage the affairs of and provide overall policy guidance for the Forum.

- Steering Committee representative roles and responsibilities:
 1. Establish the overall direction and policies for the Forum consistent with the purpose and objectives above and as defined in the Forum’s MOU.
 2. Select and establish direction for the work of committees or task forces.
 3. Approve and ensure implementation and updates of the strategic framework. Monitor activities and projects initiated as part of the strategic framework.
 4. Approve and ensure implementation of an Annual Work Plan, budget (if any), and any revisions thereto.
 5. Offer capacity, technical assistance and funding when possible.
 6. Suggest quarterly agenda items to advance the Forum’s strategic framework.
 7. Agree to support and advance the goals and objectives of the Forum.

8. Provide guidance and leadership to the Forum Coordinator.
 9. Assist in coordinating and leading efforts that engage partner organizations.
 10. Attend all Forum meetings/conference calls and other activities in which the Forum convenes; Forum representatives are expected to actively engage in the National Fish Habitat Partnership.
- Nominations—Members may sponsor nominees. The member must notify the Forum Coordinator and provide written documentation (from a member or the nominee) articulating why the entity is interested in participating on the Steering Committee. The Forum Coordinator distributes nominations to Forum representative, who have 30 days to review and discuss a pending nomination before a decision is made.
 - Members have a right to a named alternate (alternate); the Forum Coordinator must be notified of the alternate in advance of the meeting. An official letter naming a member and alternate from each of the Forum’s MOU signatories is required.
 - Each member is entitled to one and only one voting right on the Forum or its committees.
 - The total number of members shall not exceed 20.
 - If a member misses three meetings (Forum conference calls, etc.), the member will be formally approached to discuss interest in future participation.

Section 2 – Chair and Vice-Chair: The Forum Steering Committee shall always have a Chair and Vice-Chair. Both serve 2-year staggered-term positions, and each cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. Any Forum MOU signatory is eligible to be elected to Chair or Vice-Chair positions; nominations from the Forum Steering Committee will occur three months prior to the end of each position term. If the Vice Chair is voted to serve as Chair during his/her Vice-Chair mid-term, or if the Chair or Vice Chair resigns, the Forum will hold a special election to fill the newly vacated position.

- Chair role and responsibilities:
 - Represent the Forum as its point person and spokesperson.
 - Seek opportunities to solicit new Forum representatives to expand the capacity of the Forum to address fish passage issues in California.
 - Serve as a member of the Governance Committee.
 - Facilitate periodic communication among Forum members to ensure progress on Forum action items.
 - Communicate with the Vice-Chair to ensure effective coordination, issue identification, and strategic implementation of action items.

- Work with the Forum Coordinator to develop and finalize the agenda for Forum meetings.
- Vice-Chair role and responsibilities:
 - Assist Chair in carrying out his/her duties, particularly in the absence of the Chair.
 - Monitor implementation of Forum goals and objectives by working with the Forum Coordinator on the development of the annual report.
 - Work directly with Forum representatives when issues arise associated with attendance and participation.

Section 3 - Resignation and Termination of Steering Committee Members: Any member may resign by providing 30-days' notice to the signatories of the MOU and submitting a written resignation to the Chair.

Section 4 – Non-voting partners: The general non-voting membership (partner organization) is open to any entity that supports the purpose statement in Article I, Section 2.

- Roles and responsibilities of partner organizations:
 - Agree to support and advance the goals and objectives of the Forum.
 - Be genuinely interested in the Forum and an external advocate for its goals/objectives.
 - Actively participate.
 - Offer capacity, technical assistance and funding when possible.

Section 5 – Quorum: A simple majority (i.e., more than half) of the voting membership (either the official representative or the alternate representative for each of the Forum's signatories), present at a meeting, constitutes a quorum. Proxy voting is not allowed. To be a valid act of the Forum, a simple majority of the quorum is needed. If a simple majority of the quorum votes in favor of postponing voting on an item until members have had time to consult with their agencies or organization, voting on that item shall be postponed until the time the voting membership determines.

Section 6 – Meeting frequency and purpose: Meeting purpose: Meetings of the membership shall be held at least two times each year in varying locations throughout the state for the purpose of sharing information pertinent to the group's purpose, receiving reports from the committees, receiving a financial report (if any), and discussing other items of business on the agenda. Forum meetings are open to the public; however, they are not "public meetings." Partner organizations of the Forum and others are welcome to attend.

Section 7 – Voting: Voting shall be open to any member that supports the purpose statement in Article 1, Section 2; voting privileges are granted after signing the Forum MOU.

Section 8 – From time to time, the Forum may send correspondence deemed consistent with the Forum’s mission. The proposed correspondence will either be considered and approved at Forum meetings, or via email query of the Forum membership. Consideration and approval of outgoing correspondence will require a quorum if at Forum meetings, or approval of at least 2/3 of Forum members responding to notification by the Chair via email. Notifications of such communications will occur no less than one week before sending of any correspondence.

ARTICLE III. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Section 1 - Committee formation: Members shall create standing committees as deemed necessary. Committee membership is voluntary, and is opened to member Representatives or alternates. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the Chair shall appoint from the membership, subject to the approval of the voting membership by simple majority, a Chairperson of each committee. All Committees will be comprised of Forum member organizations, and other experts accepting the invitation to participate, if in the view of the responsible Committee, they can further the effort of the Forum. No member organization shall have their representative and alternate serve on the same Committee. New Committees shall be created by a vote of minimally sixty-five percent [super-majority] of member organizations.

The following committees shall be established by virtue of the establishment of these bylaws:

1. *Steering Committee (described in Article II, Section 1)*
2. *Governance Committee role and responsibilities:*
 - Coordinates the Forum’s collective work plans and budget;
 - Coordinates and communicates with NFHP regarding, but not limited to, administrative requests, reporting, project solicitations and “10 Waters to Watch” efforts.
 - Drafts Forum business documents, such as press releases, the Strategic Framework, bylaws, the Forum’s MOU, letters of support, grant applications, application forms and score sheets.
 - Assists in coordination of Forum efforts and ensures member participation in Forum meetings, working groups and committees.
 - Facilitate the formation of work groups and assist Forum work groups and committees as needed.
2. *Permitting and Policy Committee role and responsibilities:*

- Addresses issues deemed significant by the Forum and associated with project permitting and policy pertaining to fish passage and fish connectivity in the State of California.

3. *Education and Outreach Committee role and responsibilities:*

- Addresses high priority outreach actions associated with Forum initiatives. Working with Forum committees and working groups, this committee develops short- and long-term strategic actions to advance understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the role of the Forum in making strategic investments in fish passage barrier removal in the State of California.

4. *Science and Data Committee role and responsibilities:*

- Creates and coordinates working efforts to address data and science needs important to achieving Forum's goals and objectives. The Science and Data Committee collaborates with the NFHP Science and Data Committee to the extent possible, and participates in the California LCC Science-Management Team to address shared goals and objectives.

Section 2 – Working Groups: Each standing committee shall appoint various working groups for the purpose of implementing and administering defined projects or furthering specific objectives of the Forum. *Working groups* shall be discharged when their work has been completed. Working Group membership is voluntary, and is open to 1) all meeting attendees in the Forum and 2) other experts accepting the invitation to participate if, in the view of the responsible Committee, they can further the effort of the Working Group and the Forum. Working groups shall have at least one Forum Representative or alternate as a member, and unless decided otherwise by the responsible Committee. Working groups may be led by a non-Forum signatory. Committees shall be responsible for the formation, efforts, products, reporting, and discharge of their working groups. The following working groups are currently established as of 5/6/2013:

1. *Barrier Prioritization and Optimization Working Group*

The Barrier Prioritization and Optimization Working Group was formed to develop and implement a highly strategic and efficient means to prioritize fish passage barriers in the anadromous waters of California. Working with existing fish passage barrier data from the California Passage Assessment Database, the working group is using an optimization-based approach to develop a tool that will allow potential barrier projects and sites to be prioritized for funding or targeted for project development. This multi-function tool will serve many purposes for the Forum, each of our signatory entities and fish passage and habitat restoration practitioners and managers within California. The working group also envisions this

methodology becoming a powerful potential resource for prioritization of natural resource protection and restoration nationwide.

2. *Engineering Working Group*

The Engineering Working Group was formed to provide a forum for discussion and cooperation regarding information needs and engineering-related data management, fish passage design criteria, design alternatives, and construction methods. The Engineering Working Group is also responsible for consideration of means of information sharing and identification of research needs and collaborative research opportunities. In addition, the Engineering Working Group may consider potential for training opportunities and cooperate with other Forum committees and working groups on evaluations and analysis of policies.

Section 3 – Committee and Working Group Current Membership: A current list and rosters for current committees and working groups can be found at <http://www.cafishpassageforum.org>.

ARTICLE IV. DOCUMENTING THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- Steering committee action items and major decisions will be documented on the Forum website.
- Important documents will be posted on the website.
- The Forum Coordinator or his/her designee is responsible for recording official actions, taking notes each time the steering committee convenes, and posting official documents on the Forum website.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS TO THE FORUM BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended when necessary by two-thirds majority of the voting membership. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Forum Chair to be distributed with regular voting membership announcements.

APPENDIX III – FORUM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO RESTORING FISH PASSAGE BY THE CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Entered into between:

Federal agencies

Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Forest Service (USFS)

State agencies

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)
Department of Water Resources (DWR)
State Coastal Conservancy

Nonprofit organizations

California Trout
Trout Unlimited

An interstate marine fisheries commission

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)

Hereafter referred to as the Forum

I. Problem Statement

Anadromous fish habitats in California have been detrimentally impacted by human-caused and natural disturbances. Man-made barriers to anadromous fish migration include road-stream crossings, irrigation diversions, dams, and many other in-stream structures. Passage impediments affect adult and juvenile fish by delaying or preventing upstream and downstream migration, preventing the use of available habitat, and possibly inflicting injury or death.

Addressing connectivity has been consistently identified as a high priority, cost-effective approach to protecting and restoring anadromous fish populations. Restoring unimpeded passage for aquatic organisms in anadromous systems is imperative for the success of all other habitat restoration activities. State and federal action and recovery plans regularly identify fish passage and connectivity as primary limiting factors for migratory aquatic species in California.

A coordinated and comprehensive fish passage improvement program is fundamental to addressing fish passage barriers. The Forum, a consortium of federal, state, nonprofit and private sector organizations, was established in response to significant declines in Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and steelhead. At least one population of all of these species are federally listed as either threatened or endangered within California, and efforts are underway to recover their populations. In addition, the Forum recognizes the significant impacts of passage barriers to other migratory aquatic species including, but not limited to, Pacific Lamprey, Green Sturgeon, Klamath Basin Lost River Sucker, and Shortnose Sucker.

II. Background

California's historically bountiful anadromous fishery depends on the ecological integrity of dozens of streams and rivers that flow into the Pacific Ocean along the state's 1,100-mile coastline. These streams provide the habitat that salmonids and other anadromous fish require during the spawning and juvenile phases of their life.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, as roads, bridges, and dams were built on public and private lands along waterways, and as water was diverted by various means, thousands of barriers were erected, blocking the passage of anadromous fish. These barriers impact both adult and juvenile fish by preventing full use of available habitat or altering habitat and hydraulic conditions. Consequently, many salmon, steelhead, trout, lamprey, and sturgeon populations have experienced significant declines, and the sport and commercial fisheries that depended on some of these populations have, in many cases, vanished.

Man-made barriers to fish passage include road/stream intersections, pipeline or other infrastructure crossings, erosion control/flood control structures (rip-rap, concrete channels, e.g.), and dams that block or delay migration. In some cases, previously installed fish passage structures, such as fish ladders, act as barriers because of poor design or construction as well as lack of maintenance.

In October 1999, the Resources Agency established the eight-point California Coastal Salmon and Watersheds Program, which called for the coordination of State, federal, and local partners working toward the goal of restoring salmon and steelhead populations to naturally sustainable levels. At the time, fish passage barriers were recognized as a major threat to anadromous fish species in California and their removal or modification could potentially yield the greatest cost-efficiency for short-term restoration activities. Based on this recognition, the program included an objective to coordinate fish passage activities in California.

To accomplish this objective, the Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) convened a group of interested state, local and federal agencies, fisheries conservation groups, researchers, restoration contractors and others to discuss ways to improve fish

passage at man-made barriers. The success of this coordination led to the establishment of the Forum, of which many agencies and organizations are members.

The Forum identified the need for improved efforts to identify barriers, evaluate and prioritize restoration opportunities, and implement projects in a timely fashion. It also targeted administrative, financial and technical impediments to addressing these issues, including information gaps, lack of watershed-level assessment and planning, and poorly coordinated project review and permitting processes. Forum participants worked together to develop short-term solutions for these types of problems for several known high priority fish passage projects. They also established subcommittees for coordinating activities related to fish passage inventory and assessment protocols, data format and access protocols, information and literature collection, research, policy, design criteria permitting, training, and public education and outreach.

The Forum's highest initial priority for restoring passage for California anadromous fish was to determine the quantity, location and severity of existing migration barriers. Through a FY'01/'02 legislative appropriation from Proposition 12 sponsored by Assemblyman Byron Sher, the Coastal Conservancy was directed to conduct an "inventory of fish passage barriers located on coastal streams that impede access to freshwater spawning habitats for anadromous fish species." Subsequently, the Conservancy retained the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to develop the Passage Assessment Database (PAD), a map-based inventory of known and potential barriers to anadromous fish in California, now maintained through a cooperative interagency agreement.

The Forum seeks to understand watershed fragmentation throughout California. Current focal areas, each with their own anadromous fish population characteristics, challenges, and issues, include: the North Coast, Central Coast,

South Coast, and Central Valley regions. These regions also contain other species of interest that are considered in Forum activities. Although the state and federal MOU signatory members have jurisdictions across all of these regions, the additional Forum members and partners vary in each region based on their specific jurisdictions and levels of involvement.

Although Forum members develop unique prioritization lists and treatment prescriptions throughout California regions, the Forum attempts to develop standardized data management systems, assessment protocols, design manuals and outreach programs that cover the full geographic extent of the Forum and address the Forum's strategic planning process.

The Forum meets biannually, or more as needed, in different locations in California. During the meetings, issues are resolved, decisions made and strategic topics discussed. Members also form smaller, focused working groups and committees in which specific goals and tasks are addressed. The Forum developed bylaws, which govern the membership and decision-making processes.

In 2012, the Forum became one of 20 nationally recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs). The FHPs "protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people." Recognition as an FHP creates opportunities to expand partnerships and funding sources to advance Forum objectives. The mission, vision, goals, and objectives of the Forum are detailed in the Forum's strategic framework and in other documents posted on its website, www.cafishpassageforum.org.

III. Purpose

This MOU is intended to contribute to the protection and recovery of aquatic life, with a particular focus on anadromous fish species in California, by

promoting collaboration among public and private sectors on fish passage restoration programs and activities.

IV. Mission, Goals, and Objectives of the Forum

Mission

The mission of the Forum is to protect and revitalize anadromous fish populations in California by restoring connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout their historic range.

Goal

Restore the connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout the state.

To achieve the mission and goal, the Forum will:

- Improve coordination of existing agency programs, rule and guideline efforts, and private sector activities across jurisdictions to improve the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of fish passage restoration efforts.
- Facilitate collaboration, coordination, and communication among state, federal and local agencies, researchers, restoration contractors, landowners and other interested stakeholders on fish passage improvement programs, funding programs, and projects.
- Expedite implementation of on-the-ground projects by identifying and addressing institutional barriers.
- Educate and increase the public and agency awareness of fish passage issues to develop support for solving problems and preventing new ones.

Objectives

1. Remediate barriers to effective fish migration.

2. Facilitate coordination and communication among agencies, agency staff, and other entities that may propose, review, or promulgate fish passage criteria within California.
3. Coordinate funding mechanisms to remove fish passage barriers.
4. Support state and federal permit coordination and efficiencies.
5. Facilitate plans to monitor and evaluate fish passage restoration effectiveness to ensure accountability.
6. Encourage existing state and national policy and actions that support fish passage improvement in California.
7. Implement education and outreach activities, targeting both the public and fish passage practitioners.

V. Management

The Forum adopted bylaws (Appendix A) that define its name, purpose, geographic scope, voting membership, governance, committees and working groups, documentation of decisions and work products, and the process to amend the bylaws.

VI. Support of Principal Signatory Agencies

For the purposes of this MOU, principal signatory agencies are defined as those participating state or federal agencies which have direct responsibilities for the protection or management of anadromous fisheries or fish habitat, or who have established fish passage restoration program elements. Other organizations, including nonprofit entities as well as county and local governments, are also recognized signatories to the MOU. All signatory agencies will participate in the

Forum to implement the actions described above and will undertake projects consistent with the above objectives. They will participate in the Forum to prepare and implement annual work plans. As part of the ongoing cooperative effort to coordinate fish passage restoration that began before the development of this MOU, the signatory agencies and entities will undertake the following activities that are consistent with MOU goals and objectives and are within their statutory mandates and authorities, budgets, funding, and staffing constraints.

Any federal funding or personnel needed to carry out any federal agency responsibilities under this MOU shall be subject to the availability of appropriated funds, pursuant to the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. Section 1341).

The following are key responsibilities of the signatory agencies:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

1. Participate in Steering Committee.
2. Participate as a member of standing committees and working groups as needed and resources permit.
3. Work with Forum partners to improve permit processes to better facilitate fish passage improvement projects.
4. Utilize the PAD in the prioritization and development of their projects, and to report their activities back to the Forum.

5. Fund the design and implementation of fish passage improvement projects and other resource enhancement efforts in high priority watersheds consistent with the Forum's Strategic Framework and CDFW's initiatives and programs, as funding allows.
6. Periodically update Forum members on CDFW activities and resource enhancement priorities.
7. Meet and coordinate fish passage activities with other MOU signatories and agencies.
8. Provide regional perspectives from CDFW's Regional offices regarding fish passage and related aquatic habitat science, data, information, and policy.
9. Participate in data collection, management, and analysis related to fish passage and aquatic habitats.
10. Promote science-based activities that support fish passage improvement programs.
11. Provide annual updates to the Passage Assessment Database for fish passage restoration projects and assessments funded by the CDFW.

California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks)

1. Participate as a member of standing committees and working groups as needed and resources permit.

2. State Parks will periodically update Forum members of passage issues, activities and resource priorities within State Park Units, and provide updates to the Passage Assessment Database.
3. Pursue funds to remediate blockage and impediments to fish passage at priority road/stream/trail crossings within units of the State Park System that are consistent with State Parks Mission and policies, and as resources permit.
4. State Parks will inspect and inventory road/stream crossings within the State Parks' anadromous watersheds consistent with Department priorities, and as funding is available.
5. State Parks will assess, and implement fish passage projects, consistent with State Parks Mission and policies, and other stewardship priorities, as funding and other resources become available. State Parks will use an ecosystem/landscape scale approach that focuses on natural processes and benefits multiple species, allows for natural hydrologic stream processes, protects cultural resources, and considers climate change impacts and resilience opportunities.
6. State Parks will work collaboratively with State Parks' partners, neighboring landowners and road right of ways on approved fish passage projects, as appropriate.
7. State Parks will use best practices in training its staff in the proper identification, assessment, and design criteria for fish passage.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

1. Participate in the Forum Steering Committee.
2. Participate as a member of standing committees and working groups as needed and resources permit.
3. Meet and coordinate fish passage activities with other MOU signatories and agencies.
4. Carry out fish passage assessments, evaluations, and specific projects per DWR's priorities as funding becomes available.
5. Inventory the DWR's fish passage project activities and funding opportunities and report these to the California Fish Passage Forum on a regular basis.
6. Provide updates to the Passage Assessment Database (PAD) as fish passage projects are completed or additional fish passage information becomes available.
7. Provide engineering and environmental technical assistance in cooperation with DFW and NMFS pending the availability of funding.
8. Provide hydrologic and other data acquisition from DWR sources for specific projects and regional or watershed assessments when appropriate.
9. Support regional and watershed scale approaches to guide planning decisions related to its participation in the California Fish Passage Forum.

10. DWR acknowledges that climate change is having a profound impact on California's natural resources including the long-term viability of anadromous fish populations and will work with MOU signatories to assist in species recovery efforts that align with DWR priorities and available funding.

California State Coastal Conservancy

1. Continue to encourage its grantees to utilize the PAD in the prioritization and development of their projects, and to report their activities back to the Forum.
2. Continue to fund the design and implementation of fish passage improvement projects and other resource enhancement efforts in high priority coastal watersheds consistent with its Strategic Plan and as funding allows.
3. Continue to meet with the Forum and periodically update Forum members on Conservancy activities and resource enhancement priorities.

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSFMC)

1. Provide regional perspectives from the five Pacific States (California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska) regarding fish passage and related aquatic habitat science, data, information, and policy.
2. Coordinate and facilitate access to and collection, management, and analysis of data related to fish passage and aquatic habitats.
3. Provide updates to the Passage Assessment Database (PAD) as fish passage projects are completed or additional fish passage information becomes

available.

4. Maintain data standards and facilitate data sharing with other local, regional and national entities.
5. Promote and coordinate science-based tools and activities that support fish passage assessment and improvement.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

1. Participate in the Forum Steering Committee.
2. Provide guidelines for the design and installation of fish passage facilities at stream crossings.
3. Provide technical assistance on hydraulic engineering issues to the extent that staff resources are available on a case-by-case basis.
4. Provide annual updates to the Passage Assessment Database for fish passage restoration projects funded by NMFS.
5. Assist in prioritizing and selecting fish passage improvement projects that are consistent with the Forum's Strategic Framework.
6. Participate as a member of standing committees and working groups as needed and resources permit.
7. Continue to provide information to members of the Forum regarding fish passage recommendations outlined in Endangered Species Act Recovery Plans.

US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (USDA-FS)

The Pacific Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service (Region 5) will:

1. Participate in the Forum Steering Committee.
2. Participate as a member of standing committees and working groups as needed and resources permit.
3. Provide regional perspectives from USDA-FS regarding fish passage and related aquatic habitat science, data, information, and policy.
4. Assist in prioritizing and selecting fish passage improvement projects that are consistent with the Forum's Strategic Framework.
5. Meet and coordinate fish passage activities with other MOU signatories and agencies.
6. Carry out specific fish passage projects in cooperation with cost-sharing partners as specific funding and authorizations become available (through the Forum and or other funding sources).
7. Coordinate internally with other Forest Service Regions and participate with local, State, and Federal agencies as well as private organizations to develop consistent criteria for analyzing sites, collecting data, and storing information that is accessible to the participating organizations and the public.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region (Service)

1. Coordinate the National Fish Passage Program, other Service Programs and Service Field Office activities involving fish passage within the State of California and with the Forum.
2. Continue to support cooperative fish passage activities through the National Fish Passage Program and other Service programs as resources permit.
3. Promote integrity and scientific excellence within the Forum and involvement in the larger scientific community.
4. Disseminate Forum goals, objectives, and activities to other federal, tribal, state, and local agencies; watershed workgroups and other non-profit organizations; landowners; and the public.
5. Coordinate fish passage activities with other MOU signatories and agencies.
6. Participate as a member of standing committees as needed and resources permit.
7. Manage and coordinate grants and cooperative agreements on behalf of the Forum for Service National Fish Habitat Action Plan funding provided to the Forum.

8. Provide annual updates to the Passage Assessment Database for fish passage restoration projects and assessments funded by the Service.
9. Work with the Forum Coordinator and chair to provide coordination with Regional and National Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Staff and the National Fish Habitat Board.

California Trout (CalTrout)

1. Participate in the Forum Steering Committee or other committees such as the Science and Data Committee as needed and resources permit.
2. Coordinate with Forum members to restore steelhead and salmon, save imperiled native trout, and protect California's blue-ribbon waters.
3. Update the Passage Assessment Database as fish passage projects are completed or additional barriers are identified.
4. Advocate for fish and water policy that advances protection, restoration and enhancement of steelhead, salmon, and trout habitat.
5. Support projects that restore anadromous fish habitat using science, partners, and a collaborative approach.

Trout Unlimited (TU)

1. Support the Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals of the Forum.

2. Will offer our expertise to help ensure the health and success of the organization.
3. Will work with the rest of the team to communicate the organization's role to our most important audiences.
4. Will attend in person or by phone, at least 2-3 meetings held each year and, will continually communicate with the Forum Coordinator, Chair, Co-Chair and other members to ensure we understand all current affairs.
5. Will actively participate in all requests for our assistance and response.
6. Provide updates to the Passage Assessment Database for fish passage restoration projects and assessments completed by TU.

VIII. Contributing and Supporting Signatories

Contributing signatories are members of the Forum Steering Committee and will participate in and contribute, as resources permit, to the implementation of goals, objectives, and work plans. Supporting signatories support the concept, goals, and objectives of this MOU.

IX. Other Provisions and Agreements

This agreement is intended to be in furtherance of mutual goals for protecting watershed resources. This MOU is intended to embody general principles, and does not create contractual relationships, rights, obligations, duties or remedies between or among signatories.

Agency actions are subject to statutory authority and regulatory requirements. Nothing in this MOU is intended to expand or limit the legal authority or responsibilities of any signatory agency, entity or organization.

Nothing in this MOU shall limit the participating agencies in carrying out their individual statutory responsibilities.

This MOU does not modify or supersede other existing agreements, programs, MOUs, plans, regulations or executive orders.

Nothing herein alters the existing authorities or responsibilities of any party nor shall be considered as obligating any party in the expenditure of funds or the future payment of money or providing services. The expressions of support by state and federal agencies under this MOU are subject to the requirements of the federal Anti-Deficiency Act and to the availability of appropriated funds. The parties acknowledge that this MOU does not require any agency to expend its appropriated funds unless and until an authorized officer of that agency affirmatively acts to commit to such expenditures as evidenced in writing.

Consistent with federal law, nothing in this document constrains the discretion of the President or his or her successor from making whatever budgetary or legislative proposals he or his successors deem appropriate or desirable.

This MOU is not intended to, and does not, create any other right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, the State of California, any agencies thereof, any officers or employees thereof, or any other person.

X. Principal Signatory Agencies

Any party may withdraw from this MOU upon 30-days' notice to the other parties. This MOU may be amended only upon the written prior approval of each signatory. Other entities may execute this MOU and thereby become a Party.

This agreement is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective through December 31st, 2030, at which time it will expire unless extended. This agreement will be reviewed annually by the Steering Committee.

PAUL SOUZA Digitally signed by PAUL SOUZA
Date: 2020.09.11 14:24:26
-07'00'

Paul Souza, Regional Director Date
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Great Basin



Barry A. Thom August 20, 2020
Regional Administrator Date
West Coast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

Barnie T. Dygart

Digitally signed by BARNIE GYANT
Date: 2020.09.22 12:28:47 -07'00'

Randy Moore, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Date



8/27/2020

Randy Fisher – Executive Director
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Date



9/30/20
Date

Charlton H Bonham – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

DocuSigned by:

Armando Quintero

12/21/2020

Armando Quintero – California Department of Parks and Recreation

Date

Karla A. Nemeth

1/5/2021

Karla A. Nemeth – CA Department of Water Resources

Date

Sam Schuchat

11/2/2020

Sam Schuchat – Executive Officer
State Coastal Conservancy

Date



Curtis Knight, Executive Director California Trout

10/21/2020

Date



9/22/2020

Brian Johnson – Trout Unlimited

Date